



PRESS RELEASE

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**Hi-res images available**

June 9, 2014

## In Love & Peace, We Still Increase

**Five years of acquisitions by Hancock Shaker Village reveal new discoveries**

PITTSFIELD, MA --- “In Love & Peace, We Still Increase,” an exhibition of some 30 objects at Hancock Shaker Village acquired over the last five years, either as gifts, purchases or discoveries, will open in the Visitor Center gallery on Saturday, June 14, and run through November 2, when the Village closes for the season.

“The purpose of the exhibition is to say to the world that we’re an active collecting institution,” says Curator Lesley Herzberg. Many industries and crafts are represented, from metalwork, textiles and woodworking to furniture, photographs and manuscripts.

“Every object has a story to tell,” Herzberg continues. “Sometimes it’s about the object itself, and sometimes it’s the object’s provenance or the journey it’s made to get here.”

“The strange thing is we still find things here on site, even after almost 55 years as a museum. It might be a small item in a drawer, for instance, that hasn’t been touched since the Shakers. That’s always a surprise.”

Some objects in the exhibition reveal internal Shaker values and practices, while others provide insight into their money-making industries and engagement with the outside World. A set of crutches, for example, probably made at the Mount Lebanon Shaker community for an ailing brother or sister, was gifted to Hancock by a donor who acquired them at auction. “Everything about them screams Shaker,” says Herzberg. “Their utilitarian design is so beautiful and so simple.”

A wool sweater dated 1900, on the other hand, is representative of the many businesses the Shakers fostered with the outside World. Made from the wool of sheep kept at the Shaker community in Canterbury, NH, the sweater is typical of those marketed to Ivy League colleges. Shaker records refer to colors that include “Harvard Crimson” and “Dartmouth Green.”

Entry to “In Love & Peace, We Still Increase” is included with regular admission to Hancock Shaker Village. Adults are \$18, youth (ages 12 to 18) are \$8, and children 12 and under are free. Tickets for the exhibit only (not including admission to the Village) are \$6 for adults, \$5 for youth, and free for children 12 and under.

Located at the Intersections of Routes 41 and 20 in Pittsfield, MA, Hancock Shaker Village is open daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Starting Monday, June 30, hours are 10 am to 5 pm daily.

## **About Hancock Shaker Village**

For almost 200 years, from 1784 until 1959, Hancock Shaker Village, known then as The City of Peace, was home to hundreds of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, a close-knit community commonly referred to as Shakers because of the whirling, quaking and "shaking" they exhibited during their religious services.

Since 1960, the historic Village has been open to the public as a living-history museum presenting the Shaker legacy. While only a few Shakers are still living (and none live at Hancock), they're best-known today for their simple and elegant furniture and many ingenious inventions.

Located on 750 acres in the beautiful Berkshires of Massachusetts, Hancock Shaker Village is accredited by the American Association of Museums. In its collection are more than 20,000 authentic artifacts. The Village offers visitors a rotating schedule of exhibits, programs and workshops, a working farm with heritage-breed livestock and extensive gardens of heirloom vegetables, flowers and herbs, individual and group tours, miles of hiking trails and a picnic area.

The Village Harvest Café at Hancock Shaker Village is open daily from 11 am to 3 pm. The Village Store (also online), is open daily during visitor hours and features unique gift items and locally made products. Visit [www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org) for more information.